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Arrange briefing for Miel

→ Fri, at

8:00 PM

Office

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION I

Date:

Subject: Identification of Uncontrolled Hazardous Waste Site with Enforcement Potential in Fairhaven Massachusetts

From: James D. Okun
Environmental Engineer

To: Robert O'Meara
Acting Chief

While attending a meeting in New Bedford, several citizens from Fairhaven told me of two areas where they suspected hazardous waste dumping may have occurred. Both incidents may prove to be significant in the light of a recently reported alarmingly high incidence of Leukemia in Fairhaven. The first area is a park, which at one time was wetland connected with New Bedford Harbor. This area was filled close to the turn of the century. No one knows for sure what is in it, however, it appears that all the homes where Leukemia has occurred are near it.

The second site is of greater immediate concern based on an initial brief observation. In back of the Atlas Tack Company (a manufacturer of nails and tacks) is an area which appears to have been used extensively for hazardous waste disposal. There are two ponds in this area which, according to citizen reports have been used to dispose of acid pickling liquors. The entire area shows indications of large spills, with no vegetation for hundreds of feet in an otherwise wooded and swamp area.

I believe, this situation deserves some immediate attention to at least determine what chemicals (probably heavy metals) are present at the site, and to end what appears to be an on going illegal disposal operation.

cc: S. Ellis
P. Keough
G. Levy
B. Hkalainen
M. Hohman

MAR 24 1982